



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**REGION 8**  
**999 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET - SUITE 300**  
**DENVER, CO 80202-2466**  
**Phone 800-227-8917**  
**<http://www.epa.gov/region08>**

**EPR:ER**

**POLLUTION REPORT**  
**Highway #24 - Tanker Spill**  
**Eagle County, Colorado**

**I. HEADING**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>May 5, 2003</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Used/processed motor oil spill</b>
<b>POLREP No.:</b>	<b>Initial</b>
<b>OSC:</b>	<b>Tien Nguyen</b>
<b>Agency:</b>	<b>EPA - Region 8</b>
<b>Party Conducting the Action:</b>	<b>PRP</b>

**II. BACKGROUND**

<b>FPN:</b>	<b>E03808</b>
<b>Response Authority:</b>	<b>OPA</b>
<b>ERNS No.:</b>	<b>NRC643413</b>
<b>State Notification</b>	<b>RP &amp; EPA</b>
<b>Start Date:</b>	<b>04/28/03</b>
<b>Completion Date:</b>	<b>TBD</b>

**III. SITE INFORMATION**

**A. Incident Category**

**Discharge into surface water as covered in Section 311 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. Section 1321 as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.**

## **B. Site Description**

### **1. Site Location**

Site is located on Highway 24 in Eagle County, approximately 10 miles north of Leadville, Colorado, and ½ mile north of Tennessee Pass. The spill reached the wetlands about 12 miles from the South Fork of the Eagle River.

### **2. Description of Threat**

On April 28, 2003, @ approximately 2:30 A.M., a 6,800-gallon tanker truck overturned and spilled approximately 2,500 gallons of used/processed motor oil. The oil traveled 100 yards along a ditch and passed under a culvert into a riparian area of the White River Forest.

## **C. Site Evaluation Results**

Oil spilled about 10 feet off the roadway, but some of the run-off had reached the wetland areas. Berms of oil-absorbing material had been put into place in order to prevent the used oil from reaching the Eagle River.

## **IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION**

### **A. Situation**

#### **1. Action description**

The Leadville Fire Department and the Colorado State Patrol responded to the scene immediately and initiated actions to contain the spill and limit its migration to the wetland area. EPA - OSC Tien Nguyen and EPA's START2 Contractor mobilized to the site at 8:30 A.M. on April 28, 2003, and initiated Removal oversight. Two RP recovery crews were relieving the overturned tanker of the used oil, before "righting" the vehicle.

Initial inspections/input/technical advice regarding the release were provided by EPA-OSC Nguyen, United States Forest Service (USFS), the Colorado Department of Health (CDH), State Wildlife, and County Health. The PRP was notified that the shoulder of Highway #24 would have to be dug out and replaced, and the wetland/oil soaked areas needed to be excavated and removed.

By the end of the of 4/28/03, the oil that remained in the tanker truck had been transferred to a vacuum truck, and the tanker truck was “uprighted” and removed from the scene. Approximately 1,300 gallons of spilled oil from along the Highway had been recovered. Oil boom, absorbent boom, and hay boom were deployed at the wet land area, beaver ponds, and adjacent stream, to contain the oil from reaching further down stream.

By Friday, May 2, 2003, approximately 25 truck loads of contaminated soil were excavated and transported to a landfill in Canon City for disposal. Approximately 15,000 gallons of mixture of oil and water had been recovered from the wetland area (affected wetland area = approx 3 acres).

**B. Planned Removal Actions**

The RP will continue its activities to remediate the remaining contamination at the Site. EPA will continue to conduct oversight of the cleanup until efforts by the RP are considered to be satisfactory.

**C. Key Issues**

There are no key issues identified at this time.

**V. COST INFORMATION**

EPA opened the OPA Fund for \$5,000 to respond to the release.